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Application No. 10/665,532
Amendment dated November 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 25, 2006

Docket No.: 1381-0302P

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An elevator comprising a hoisting rope set having hoisting ropes of a substantially round cross-section, a counterweight and an elevator car suspended from the hoisting ropes and at least one rope pulley provided with rope grooves, the at least one rope pulley being a traction sheave coated with a material increasing the coefficient of friction, said traction sheave being driven by a drive machine to move the hoisting rope set, at least the traction sheave forms together with the hoisting rope set a material pair that allows the hoisting rope to bite into the traction sheave after the coating on the surface of the traction sheave has been lost.
2. (Previously Presented) The elevator as defined in claim 1, wherein the coating of the at least one rope pulley is made of rubber, polyurethane or other elastic material.
3. (Currently Amended) The elevator as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein the hoisting ropes used are ~~super-strong thin~~ ropes having a diameter of less than 8 mm.
4. (Previously Presented) The elevator as defined in claim 1, wherein the hoisting ropes contain a load-bearing part twisted from steel wires.
5. (Currently Amended) The elevator as defined in claim 1, wherein the elevator is ~~safe to use even in exceptional conditions where usable when~~ the coating on the surface of the traction sheave has been lost.

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6. (Currently Amended) A traction sheave for steel wire ropes and the traction sheave comprising rope grooves for hoisting ropes on an outer rim thereof and a coating increasing friction against the hoisting ropes, the material used in the traction sheave, at least under the coating on the outer rim of the traction sheave, is a material that allows the hoisting rope to bite into it the material.

7. (Previously Presented) The traction sheave as defined in claim 6, wherein the material of the traction sheave includes a portion made of one of soft steel, aluminum, cast iron and brass.

8. (Previously Presented) The traction sheave as defined in claim 6, wherein the sheave has at the bottom of the rope grooves of the traction sheave a groove allowing the hoisting rope to bite into the groove.

9. (Previously Presented) The traction sheave as defined in claim 8, wherein the groove provided under the coating in the rope groove is one of an undercut groove and a V-shaped groove.

10. (Currently Amended) The traction sheave as defined in claim 6, further comprising wherein the material comprises an insert in at least one of the rope grooves allowing the hoisting rope to bite into it the insert, said insert being implanted under the coating on the traction sheave,

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the insert maintaining a grip between the traction sheave and the hoisting rope when the coating is removed.

11. (Previously Presented) The traction sheave as defined in claim 1, wherein the sheave has under the coating in the rope groove on the outer rim of the traction sheave a roughened area for maintaining a grip between the hoisting rope and the traction sheave.

12. (Previously Presented) The elevator as defined in claim 3, wherein the diameter of the ropes is 3-5 mm.

13. (New) The elevator as defined in claim 6, wherein the material pair are made of different materials.

14. (New) The traction sheave as defined in claims 6, wherein the coating and the material under the coating are different materials.